

CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED SIXTEEN
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

1970

VAW-116
1970

RECORDED

VAW-116/ADMIN:tbc
5750
Ser 01
MAR 1 1971

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REGISTERED AIR MAIL

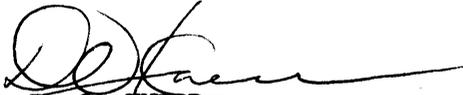
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Unclassified upon removal of Appendices (3) and (8) of enclosure (1)

From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron
ONE HUNDRED SIXTEEN
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)
Subj: Command History for Calendar Year 1970 (OPNAV Report 5750-1);
submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A

Encl: (1) VAW-116 Command History - 1970

1. In compliance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.


D. O. KNERR

Copy to:
Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)

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VAW-116 SQUADRON HISTORY 1970

NARRATIVE

Command Organization.

Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE HUNDRED SIXTYE (VAW-116) is an airborne early warning squadron in the sense of article 312 of NWP 320, Anti Air Warfare and as defined in chapter 2 of NWIP 10-3(A), Naval Warfare Terms, to the extent implied by the radar, radio, and data link capabilities of the E-2A/B aircraft. VAW-116 is currently a self-supporting squadron under the administrative control of Commander Carrier Airborne Early Warning Wing ELEVEN (COMCCEW-11), Commander Fleet Air San Diego (COMFATSURFAC), and Commander Naval Air Force Pacific (COMNAVAIRPAC). VAW-116 is charged with the operational training, organizing, and equipping of a combat ready airborne early warning squadron for deployment and service to any Pacific Fleet Attack Carrier Air Wing (CAW). VAW-116 provides fleet commanders with a long range airborne early warning, air surveillance, communications and aircraft control.

Personnel.

1970 was VAW-116's fourth year as a commissioned squadron. Commander Arthur K. POTTER Junior, USN and Commander Donald O. KNERR, USN served as Commanding Officer and Executive Officer respectively from 27 May 1969 to 24 April 1970. Commander KNERR relieved Commander POTTER as Commanding Officer and Commander James G. McINTYRE, USN joined the squadron as Executive Officer, both to retain their billets through the remainder of the calendar year.

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Appendix 1 & 12 contain the roster and pictures of squadron personnel as of 1 January 1970 and 1 January 1971 respectively.

Aircraft Assigned.

During 1970 Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN had a total of four E-2A/B aircraft assigned. Statistics, including additions, losses and gains, are listed in appendix X.

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HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY

During the first half of calendar year 1970 Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN was temporarily based on board USS CORAL SEA (CVA-13), under the operational control of Attack Carrier Air Wing FIFTEEN (CVW-15). New Years Day 1970 found VAW-116 participating in flight operations on "Yankee Station". The ship arrived Leyte Pier, NAS Cebu Point, R. P. on 20 January and remained in port for maintenance and replenishment until the 24th. On 25 January CORAL SEA commenced Task Force 71 operations while steaming toward Sasebo, Japan. The squadron was instrumental in several Air-to-Air Missile Firing Exercises and one AAWER in the Okinawa area while in route. CVA-13 anchored at Sasebo for approximately two weeks. A stopover at Cebu Point from 15-17 February while enroute for another line session afforded squadron pilots the opportunity for instrument checks, MIP and night PCLP refreshers. This subsequent line period ended on 8 March when CVA-13 left for Hong Kong via Sable Bay. With a replenished ship and a refreshed crew the carrier transited for more Yankee Team Operations. This cycle of line operations ceased on 10 April when all squadron shipmates felt the tragic loss of five Comrades-in-Arms at sea. CORAL SEA limped for Yokosuka to accomplish turbine repairs which took ten days to complete. VAW-116 held Change of Command ceremonies aboard the carrier on 24 April as Commander D. O. KNERR relieved Commander A. M. POTTER as skipper. A change in schedule found CORAL SEA in transit for "Yankee Station". She arrived on April 29 and was engaged until the first of June. This was the ships last line period. 2-4 June was spent in port Cebu prior to turning toward Australia. She

arrived Sydney on 13 June in time to help the Aussies celebrate the Queen's Birthday. June 13 found the ship enroute ONNS and on 30 June VAW-116 aircraft flew off to their home port NAS North Island culminating an almost ten month deployment.

The remainder of the calendar year the squadron was home ported at San Diego and training has been the squadron's primary commitment. Instrument refereshers, standardization flights, and field carrier landing practice for pilots, link, detection and tracking and special exercises, (including a Ropeval from 26 September to 1 October and an Alpha Strike from 1-3 December) for NFOs have enabled our flight crews to retain proficiency. The year 1970 was one of mixed emotions for squadron personnel. Spirits were high when in February the squadron was informed it had earned the Battle "E" from Commander Pacific Fleet. However, the entire squadron was saddened with the tragic loss of the entire crew of NL 012 on 10 April.

VAW-116 has bid farewell to old hands and welcomed aboard new members. Spirits are high again. With another cruise under her belt Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE HUNDRED SIXTEEN looks forward to her next deployment aboard a new home at sea, the USS CONSTELLATION (CVA-64).